

New synonymy for a species of mealybug in the genus *Pseudococcus* (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae) that occurs on fruit trees in Chile

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In July of 2011, we each became aware that we were studying the same Chilean mealybug species. The research by González (2011) emphasized the biology, economic importance, and control of the species on fruit, and described it as the new species *Pseudococcus rubigena* González. The research by Prado in Correa *et al.* (2011) provided a detailed description using molecular and morphological data and described the new species as *P. meridionalis* Prado. Based on the Principle of Priority (Article 23) in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999), one of these names must have precedence. Unfortunately, both papers were published at approximately the same time. The date of publication of the Correa *et al.* paper is clearly marked as June 22, 2011. The exact date of publication of the González book was not clear because it did not give a specific date, only 2011. To establish the exact date, a certificate of publication was requested from the publisher (Imprenta Italiana Ltda.) by González. In a letter dated November 23, 2011, Nelson Cannoni M., Gerente General, Imprenta Italiana indicated “ULTIMO DESPACHO DE EJEMPLARES: 30 de junio de 2011.” This is considered the date of publication for the name *P. rubigena* which was predated by *P. meridionalis* by just nine days. Therefore the following synonymy is proposed.

***Pseudococcus meridionalis* Prado, 2011**
Pseudococcus rubigena González 2011 **syn. nov.**

References

Correa, M., Aguirre, C., Germain, J.-F., Hinrichsen, P., Zaviezo, T., Malausa, T. & Pardo, E. (2011) A new species of *Pseudococcus* belonging to the “*Pseudococcus maritimus*” complex from Chile: molecular and morphological description. *Zootaxa*, 2926, 46–54.

González, R.H. (2011) *Pseudococcidos de importancia frutícola en Chile*. Universidad de Chile, Facultad de Ciencias Agronómicas, Publicaciones en Ciencias Agrícolas No. 18, 186 pp.

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (1999) *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, 4th edition. The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature 1999, London, i–xxix, 306 pp.